

KiGGS – The German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents

Abstract Principal Publication

Bundesgesundheitsbl – Gesundheitsforsch – Gesundheitsschutz 2007 · 50: 711-717

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Pain in children and adolescents in Germany: the prevalence and usage of medical services. Results of the German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents (KiGGS)

Abstract As part of the German Health Interview and Examination Survey for Children and Adolescents (KiGGS), representative data were collected on pain in 14,959 children and adolescents aged 3 to 17 years in Germany. The results are reported separately for 11–17-year olds, who were asked themselves, and 3–10 year olds, whose parents reported on their pain. Among the 3–10 year olds, the prevalence of pain over three months was 64.5% and among the 11–17 year olds it was 77.6% (71.1% altogether for the 3–17 year old children). Pain prevalence increased significantly with age; in all age groups girls reported pain significantly more often than boys of the same age. In the 3–10 year olds the most common pain localisation was stomach pains, followed by pain in the head and throat. Children and adolescents aged 11 to 17 most often reported headaches, followed by pains in the stomach and back. Pain occurring at least once a week in the last three months was reported by 24.3% of the 11–17 year old children and adolescents and by 9.9% of the 3–10 year old children suffering from pain. More than half (54.1%) of the 3–10 year olds and more than one third of the 11–17 year olds (35.9%) who reported recurrent principal pain consulted a doctor for this reason; 36.7% and 46.7% respectively took medicine. These results show that pain is a relevant problem in children and adolescents in Germany.

Keywords Health Survey - Children - Adolescents - Pain - Epidemiology - Use of medical services
